Black Caucus Told of FBI Files

By Austin Scott
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Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson said yesterday that FBI files on black Americans are so numerous that ". . . apparently anyone with dark skin who dares to open his mouth is viewed as subversive."

"Most of these people are in the FBI's files because they exercised their constitutional of dissent," right Anderson said as he handed Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) a computerized list of 5,500 names.

The few he has checked he found to be "completely erroneous, based on barroom rumor," Anderson told a hearing on "governmental lawlessness," conducted by the Congressional Black Caucus and chaired by Dellums.

Nevertheless Anderson said, there are files for supporters of President Nixon such as Floyd McKissick, Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr, widow of the slain civil rights leader, for entertainers, organizers, and just plain folks.

Anderson said the list, which stretched about 30 feet from one wall of the hearing room out the door and into the hallway, was what the Secret Service calls its "black nationalist list, a special file of the blacks it keeps track of, including Roy Wilkins and Jackie Robinson.

Anderson said there is a heavy traffic "in dossiers that have no substantiation whatsoever."

They pass "from one government agency to another," he said, so loosely handled that all along the way bits and pieces of unverified information leak into unscrupulous hands, the same way they have leaked into his.

"These files are just loaded with blackmail information, the kind of information that ought never be in the files in a democracy," Anderson said.

As an example, he said, the file on "a prominent black female singer" notes: "Information was received from a reliable source that——— was suing her husband . . . for a divorce as a result of Mrs.——— ———catching her husband in bed with———."

Anderson said he knows of "a couple of instances" where whites seeking government jobs have been "confronted with raw, unproved data from their FBI files." He gave no names.

"With crime running rampant across the country, with dope being peddled on virtually every urban street corner, with organized crime infiltrating into virtually every level of American life, the FBI has tied up countless agents and spent untold millions prying into the private lives of prominent Americans," Anderson said.

Anderson said his associate who specializes in sifting through FBI information, Joe Spear, would be available to the caucus whenever needed. He cautioned caucus members to be careful with the "unverified" information in several portions of files he turned over to them.

He did not release any names on Secret Service list.

An FBI spokesman said there would be "no comment"

The FBI was not the only agency that came in for heavy attack on the second day of the four-day hearing.

Arthur Chotin, one of the dissatisfied Civil Rights Division attorneys who quit the Justice Department last month to work for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. George McGovern said his former department backs away from the battles it needs to fight to guarantee human rights.

"More could have been done in the Johnson administration." Chotin said. "However it does seem clear to me that the trend in the past few years of the Nixon administration's existence has been toward a less aggressive role a less effective role . . ."